

applies to the Wagner Bill, S. 1620, which, if enacted by the present Congress, would no doubt lead to revolutionary changes in medical practice in many states of the Union. Forewarned is to be forearmed, and the elaborate and complicated "health improvement" legislation, so insistently advocated not only in one state after the other, but in the federal congressional halls as well, means only one thing, namely: It is most urgent that every physician should realize how medical practice standards are menaced by much of the proposed legislation, and that the suggested laws are not to be disregarded or scoffed at as the idle vagaries of well-meaning theorists. As a matter of fact, the contrary is practically the case; that is, much of the proposed legislation has been intensively studied by the proponents of the measures, who have carried on a vigorous propaganda campaign among all social, and especially the mass-voting classes, in efforts to secure from among the members of such groups their most active allies for the passage of the so-called "health laws."

It has been stated that the Wagner Health Bill will probably not be voted out of committee during the present session of Congress; but that does not mean it will not reappear, with stronger backing than ever, in the succeeding Congress.

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County Societies Should Place Wagner Bill on Their Programs.—It is urged upon the officers and program committees of every component county society, to arrange to have their first meetings, after the summer vacation months just ahead, given over to a consideration of California and national legislation, related to public health and to medical practice. In every county society there are always some members who are watching legislative trends; and in the absence of other speakers, some of these colleagues might well be invited to take part in a symposium discussion on these problems. Were the invitation to be extended now, and in due time, and proper publicity thus given to the prospective meeting, worthwhile attendance could be brought out, with much good accruing through the exchange of opinion and discussion.

Remember, the Wagner Health Bill, now before Congress, is not dead. Its loosely drawn text—whether drafted so intentionally or otherwise is not known—would permit vast extensions into the field of curative medicine, to the detriment of real progress in preventive medicine, with additional possibility of tremendous injury to curative medical practice and hospitalization standards and investments. Take the time, therefore, in some leisure periods to acquaint yourselves with these matters. You may be surprised to learn what is going on.

VACATION PLANS

Vacation Periods Are Welcome.—Summer months, in recent years, have taken on somewhat of a new meaning for many physicians, that being the period during which relief is nowadays obtained

from the frequent meetings of hospital staffs, medical and other societies.

The vacation change in the routine of the calendar allotments of the year is a welcome variation; and to practitioners of the healing art should have special appeal. The hope is expressed that, for longer or shorter periods, all physicians may be able so to arrange their affairs as to permit at least short sojourn amid different surroundings and scenes, in order that they may return to their work and responsibilities, refreshed in body and mind, and stimulated to take up the tasks of each day with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

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Contemplative Introspection of Value.—A vacation period can be made to serve to good end, also, if some of its time is given over to leisurely introspection and evaluation of one's routine activities; with self-queries on possible rearrangements and improvements. Such contemplation need not be limited to purely personal matters. Indeed, the consideration of those relationships that have to do with collective action may be even more important. Certainly, in times like the present, with so many assaults in the forming, and all intended for attack on medical practice procedures and standards (and thus, by indirection upon the very medical profession that has been responsible for most of the work giving to the United States the lowest morbidity and mortality rates among civilized countries), it is desirable that every physician should develop an active consciousness of his obligations to his profession and to his fellow physicians. It may be quite in order, therefore, to place among the handbag literature, to be browsed over during a vacation sojourn, some of the many printed articles to be found in books, medical and other magazines, in which health insurance plans, in their various legislative and other forms, are discussed.

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Modern Day Propaganda May Not Be Ignored.—It is important for physicians to keep in mind that everywhere men and women's service and other clubs are placing these topics on their lecture and study programs, and that proponents of plans antagonistic to the best interests of scientific medicine and the public health are more than active in efforts to promote acceptance of their ideas and promulgations at such meetings. Auditors often turn to their physician friends for authoritative information on the issues under discussion, and doctors of medicine themselves should be so well informed that clarifying and acceptable answers may be given to the requests for actual facts. Let it not be forgotten that modern day propaganda means cultivation of public opinion, and that public opinion may not be ignored. Wherefore, once again, each physician is urged to keep in touch with the trend of printed literature on medical service plans, and on public health and allied activities in all their various activities, so that he may be the better prepared to do his part in the educational campaign ahead.